

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-11 have been canceled in favor of new Claims 12-22. The new claims are based upon the original Claims 1-11 but have been revised for clarity in response to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, is believed to be moot. In particular, new Claim 12 recites in part that the screen guide includes a plurality of guide pieces aligned in a row such that surfaces of adjacent ones of the guide surfaces contact each other, and a flexible wire member connects all of the guides pieces to each other, the wire member extending through passage holes penetrating along the aligned direction of the guide pieces and located at an upper end of each of the standing walls. This permits the guide pieces to bend as shown in Figure 6.

The objection to the specification is not understood. There is no prohibition against the specification being narrative or based on a translation of a foreign document, so long as it comprises a description of the invention which is sufficiently clear to enable a person skilled in the art to make and use the same. The Office Action has not specified any particular grammatical or idiomatic errors, and Applicants believe that the specification is sufficiently clear for one skilled in the art to understand the claimed invention.

The original Claims 1 and 5-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over U.S. patent 6,186,212 (Tsuchida) in view of Japanese patent publication 08-121054. According to the Office Action, Tsuchida discloses a bendable screen guide, but fails to teach passages holes formed along the tops of the standing walls, with strings of wire members extending through the holes, but that this latter teaching is found in JP '054. It is nonetheless respectfully submitted that the amended claims define over this prior art.

Tsuchida discloses a screen device including a guide frame 3 composed of rigid units 4, adjacent ones of which are connected by fitting protrusions 7 into holes 8 (column 2, lines 49-51). As the Office Action has recognized, Tsuchida lacks the claimed guide pieces. In

particular, Claim 12 recites that the guide pieces composed of synthetic resin are serially connected by the flexible wire member passing through passage holes penetrating “along the aligned direction of said guide pieces” such that the contact surfaces of the adjacent guide pieces contact each other when the screen guide is guided along the end of the stretched screen. Tsuchida fails to disclose this feature.

Nor does JP ‘054 provide evidence that one skilled in the art would have found it obvious to have modified Tsuchida to provide the flexible wire members connecting the guide pieces 4, and penetrating passage holes in the top parts of each of said standing walls, the passage holes penetrating along the aligned direction of the guide pieces. JP ‘054 discloses a screen door comprising vertical frame members 5 connected by a pleated partition. The bottoms of the frame members 5 are guided on an elongated guide member 4, and the tension for changing the spacing of the guide members 5 is provided by wire 71-73. However, JP ‘054 lacks a screen guide comprised of a plurality of guide pieces, and the wire 71-73 does not connect such guide pieces.

The reliance on JP ‘054 in the Office Action was apparently based upon the illustration in Figure 3 of a “stop apparatus” 50 having a vertical flange which appears to include holes for the wire 71. However, this feature of JP ‘054 would not provide evidence that one skilled in the art would have found it obvious to have replaced the hole/protrusion connection 7-8 for the guide pieces 4 in Tsuchida with a connection using wires, since the stop apparatus 50 of JP ‘054 is not a plurality of aligned guide pieces forming a screen guide.

In any case, the holes illustrated in the stop apparatus shown in Figure 3 of JP ‘054 extend vertically and terminate at a vertical wall of the stop apparatus. They do not penetrate “along the line direction of said guide pieces” and so could not suggest modifying Tsuchida to connect the guide pieces 4 by a flexible wire member which extends through a passage

hole penetrating in such an aligned direction. It is therefore respectfully submitted that Claim 12 and its dependent claims clearly define over this prior art.

Applicants therefore believe that the present application is in a condition for allowance and respectfully solicit an early Notice of Allowability.

Respectfully submitted,

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